

CHAPTER 173–545 WAC
INSTREAM RESOURCES PROTECTION PROGRAM—WENATCHEE
RIVER BASIN, WATER RESOURCE INVENTORY AREA (WRIA) 45

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WAC

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WAC 173–545–010 General provision. These rules apply to waters within the Wenatchee River basin, WRIA 45, as defined in WAC 173–500–040. This chapter is promulgated pursuant to chapter 90.54 RCW (Water Resources Act of 1971), chapter 90.22 RCW (minimum water flows and levels), chapter 75.20 RCW (state fisheries code) and in accordance with chapter 173–500 WAC (water resources management program).

[Statutory Authority: Chapters 90.54, 90.22 and 75.20 RCW. 83–13–016 (Order DE 83–8), § 173–545–010, filed 6/3/83.]

WAC 173–545–020 Purpose. The purpose of this chapter is to retain perennial rivers, streams, and lakes in the Wenatchee River basin with instream flows and levels necessary to provide protection for wildlife, fish, scenic, aesthetic, and environmental values, recreation, navigation, and water quality.

[Statutory Authority: Chapters 90.54, 90.22 and 75.20 RCW. 83–13–016 (Order DE 83–8), § 173–545–020, filed 6/3/83.]

WAC 173–545–030 Establishment of instream flows.

(1) Stream management units and associated control stations are established as follows:

Stream Management Unit Information

Control Station No. Stream Management Unit Name	Control Station by River Mile and Section, Township, Reach(es) and Range	Affected Stream including Tributaries
12–4570.00 Wenatchee River at Plain	46.2 Sec. 12, T. 26N., R. 17E. W.M	From Plain Road Bridge, R.M. 46.2, to headwaters
12–4585.00 Icicle Cr. near Leavenworth	1.5 Sec. 24, T. 24N., R. 17E. W.M	Headwaters of Icicle Creek to its mouth
12–4590.00 Wenatchee River at Peshastin	21.5 Sec. 8, T. 24N., R. 18E. W.M	From confluence of Derby Creek to Plain Road Bridge, R.M. 46.2 excluding Derby Creek and Icicle Creek
12–4625.00 Wenatchee River at Monitor	7.0 Sec. 11, T. 23N., R. 19E. W.M	From mouth to confluence of Derby Creek, including Derby Creek and excluding Mission Creek
12–4620.00 Mission Creek near Cashmere	1.5 Sec. 8, T. 23N., R. 19E. W.M	From mouth to head– waters

(2) Instream flows are established for the stream management units in WAC–173–545–030(1) as follows:

Instream Flows in the Wenatchee River basin
(instantaneous cubic feet per second)

Month	Day	12–4570.00 Wenatchee R. at Plain	12–4580.00 Icicle Cr. near Leavenworth	12–4590.00 Wenatchee R. at Peshastin
Jan	1	550	120	700
	15	550	120	700
Feb	1	550	120	700
	15	550	120	700
Mar	1	550	150	750
	15	700	170	940
Apr	1	910	200	1300
	15	1150	300	1750
May	1	1500	450	2200
	15	2000	660	2800
Jun	1	2500	1000	3500
	15	2000	660	2600
Jul	1	1500	450	1900
	15	1200	300	1400
Aug	1	880	200	1000
	15	700	170	840
Sep	1	660	130	820
	15	620	130	780
Oct	1	580	130	750
	15	520	130	700
Nov	1	550	150	750
	15	550	150	750
Dec	1	550	150	750
	15	550	150	750

Instream Flows in the Wenatchee River basin (cont'd)
(instantaneous cubic feet per second)

Month	Day	12-4620.00 Mission Cr. near Cashmere	12-4625.00 Wenatchee R. at Monitor
Jan	1	6	820
	15	6	820
Feb	1	6	820
	15	6	800
Mar	1	6	800
	15	11	1040
Apr	1	22	1350
	15	40	1750
May	1	40	2200
	15	40	2800
Jun	1	28	3500
	15	20	2400
Jul	1	14	1700
	15	10	1200
Aug	1	7	800
	15	5	700
Sep	1	4	700
	15	4	700
Oct	1	4	700
	15	5	700
Nov	1	6	800
	15	6	800
Dec	1	6	800
	15	6	800

- (3) Instream flow hydrographs, as represented in the document entitled “Wenatchee River Basin Instream Resources Protection Program, figs. 7, 8, 9, pgs. 30 and 31,” shall be used for identification of instream flows on those days not specifically identified in WAC 173-545-030(2).
- (4) Future consumptive water right permits issued hereafter for diversion of surface water from the main stem Wenatchee River and perennial tributaries shall be expressly subject to instream flows established in WAC 173-545-030(1) through (3) as measured at the appropriate gage, preferably the nearest one downstream, except for those exemptions described in WAC 173-545-070 (1) through (3).
- (5) Projects that would reduce the flow in a portion of a stream’s length (e.g.: hydroelectric diversion projects) will be considered consumptive with respect to the bypassed portion of the stream and will be subject to specific instream flow requirements as specified by the department for the bypassed reach notwithstanding WAC 173-545-030(1) through (3). The

department may require detailed, project-specific instream flow studies to determine a specific instream flow for the bypassed reach.

- (6) If department investigations determine that withdrawal of ground water from the source aquifers would not interfere significantly with stream flow during the period of stream closure or with maintenance of minimum flows, then applications to appropriate public ground waters may be approved and permits or certificates issued.

[Statutory Authority: Chapters 90.54, 90.22 and 75.20 RCW. 83-13-016 (Order DE 83-8), § 173-545-030, filed 6/3/83.]

WAC 173-545-040 Stream closure. The department has determined that additional diversions of water from Peshastin Creek during the period June 15 to October 15 would deplete instream flows required to protect instream values. Peshastin Creek is, therefore, closed to further consumptive appropriation from June 15 to October 15 each year. During the nonclosed period, minimum instream flows will be controlled and measured from the control station on the Wenatchee River at Monitor.

[Statutory Authority: Chapters 90.54, 90.22 and 75.20 RCW. 83-13-016 (Order DE 83-8), § 173-545-040, filed 6/3/83.]

WAC 173-545-050 Policy statement for future permitting actions. Consistent with the provisions of chapter 90.54 RCW, it is the policy of the department to preserve an appropriate base flow in all streams and rivers as well as the water levels in all lakes in the Wenatchee River basin by encouraging the use of alternate sources of water which include

- (1) ground water,
- (2) storage water, or
- (3) purchase of other valid water rights.

[Statutory Authority: Chapters 90.54, 90.22 and 75.20 RCW. 83-13-016 (Order DE 83-8), § 173-545-050, filed 6/3/83.]

WAC 173-545-060 Lakes. In future permitting actions relating to withdrawal of lake waters, lakes and ponds shall be retained substantially in their natural condition. Withdrawals of water which would conflict therewith shall be authorized only in those situations where it is clear that overriding considerations of the public interest will be served.

[Statutory Authority: Chapters 90.54, 90.22 and 75.20 RCW. 83-13-016 (Order DE 83-8), § 173-545-060, filed 6/3/83.]

WAC 173-545-070 Exemptions.

- (1) Nothing in this chapter shall affect existing water rights, riparian, appropriative, or otherwise existing on the effective date of this chapter, nor shall it affect existing rights relating to the operation of any navigation, hydroelectric, or water storage reservoir or related facilities.

- (2) Future requests for group domestic uses, including municipal supply, may be exempted from the minimum instream flow provisions of this chapter when it is determined by the department, in consultation with the departments of fisheries and game, that overriding considerations of the public interest will be served.
- (3) Single domestic and stockwatering use, except that related to feedlots, shall be exempt from the provisions established in this chapter. If the cumulative impacts of numerous single domestic diversions would significantly affect the quantity of water available for instream uses, then only single domestic in-house use shall be exempt if no alternative source is available.
- (4) Nonconsumptive uses which are compatible with the intent of the chapter may be approved.

[Statutory Authority: Chapters 90.54, 90.22 and 75.20 RCW. 83-13-016 (Order DE 83-8), § 173-545-070, filed 6/3/83.]

WAC 173-545-080 Future rights. No rights to divert or store public surface waters of the Wenatchee River basin, WRIA 45, shall hereafter be granted which shall conflict with the purpose of this chapter.

[Statutory Authority: Chapters 90.54, 90.22 and 75.20 RCW. 83-13-016 (Order DE 83-8), § 173-545-080, filed 6/3/83.]

WAC 173-545-090 Enforcement. In enforcement of this chapter, the department of ecology may impose such sanctions as appropriate under authorities vested in it, including but not limited to the issuance of regulatory orders under RCW 43.27A.190 and civil penalties under RCW 90.03.600.

[Statutory Authority: Chapters 43.21B, 43.27A, 90.22 and 90.54 RCW. 88-13-037 (Order 88-11), § 173-545-090, filed 6/9/88. Statutory Authority: Chapters 90.54, 90.22 and 75.20 RCW. 83-13-016 (Order DE 83-8), § 173-545-090, filed 6/3/83.]

WAC 173-545-095 Appeals. All final written decisions of the department of ecology pertaining to permits, regulatory orders, and related decisions made pursuant to this chapter shall be subject to review by the pollution control hearings board in accordance with chapter 43.21B RCW.

[Statutory Authority: Chapters 43.21B, 43.27A, 90.22 and 90.54 RCW. 88-13-037 (Order 88-11), § 173-545-095, filed 6/9/88.]

WAC 173-545-100 Regulation review. The department of ecology shall initiate a review of the rules established in this chapter whenever new information, changing conditions, or statutory modifications make it necessary to consider revisions.

[Statutory Authority: Chapters 43.21B, 43.27A, 90.22 and 90.54 RCW. 88-13-037 (Order 88-11), § 173-545-100, filed 6/9/88. Statutory Authority: Chapters 90.54, 90.22 and 75.20 RCW. 83-13-016 (Order DE 83-8), § 173-545-100, filed 6/3/83.]